

Hampton Roads Regional LHRC Meeting

November 29, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Copeland at 9:40 AM.

II. INTRODUCTIONS:

Quorum present: Mary Baylor, Marilyn Copeland, and Sara Flippens.
Quorum absent: Dr. Roderick S. Hawthorne, LHRC Chairman, and Wanda Ward.

Regional Advocate, DMHMRSAS, present: Reginald Daye.

Affiliate Representatives: Phil Black, Commonwealth Support Systems; Gilbert Hernandez, Jr., Community Services of Virginia, Inc.; Joan Whitted, Emerson Place, Inc.; Jeffrey Moore, Juanita Austin, & Vanessa Futrell, Family Redirection Institute, Inc.; Rodney Hawkins & Ethel Heyward, G.R.A.C.E., Inc.; Rita Fisher & Keisha Robertson, James Bentley Treatment Program; Kimberly Pervall, Northwestern Human Services, Inc.; Bill Miller, Sentara Behavioral Health Services; Joanna Stinespring, Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services; Makeisha Jackson, Tranquility Manor, LLC; and Cynthia Whitehead, Unique Friends, LLC.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes for the meeting held 8/23/06 were approved as written and forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, on 12/7/06.

A hard copy of the minutes will be mailed to Reginald Daye, Regional Advocate.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

There are no vacancies for committee members on this LHRC.

The State Board conducted public hearings (where speakers addressed changes to the human rights regulations) during October and November 2006. Public comments were accepted until 11/17/06. Study groups are now reviewing those comments.

The minutes approved at the current meeting will be forwarded to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director, to be posted on the state website (margaret.walsh@co.dmhmrsas.virginia.gov) within three (3) business days. A draft of the current minutes will be forwarded to Margaret Walsh for posting on the website within ten (10) business days of the Committee meeting. The “Freedom of Information Act” mandates that all service providers post at each of their sites the date, time, and location of all scheduled LHRC meetings. This posting will include a list of all meetings scheduled for the remaining year (2/28/07).

The Local Human Rights Committee (LHRC) conference will be scheduled during the fall of 2007.

Competency-based training is required annually. Expect unannounced site visits.

Mr. Daye reminded affiliates of their responsibility to notify the Office of Human Rights in writing when intending to open a new group home. The Office of Human Rights will determine whether new policies are required. This must be established prior to presenting a request to the LHRC.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

The role of making LHRC meeting reminder/notification calls is rotated among all the affiliates. G.R.A.C.E., Inc. is responsible for notifying affiliates and committee members of the LHRC meeting scheduled for 2/28/07.

Bill Miller, currently managing the finances, reported a balance of \$1,943 as of 11/29/06.

VI. NEW PROGRAMS REQUESTING AFFILIATION:

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. requested a renewal of their temporary affiliation for their children’s group home in Hampton as well as their substance abuse services in both locations. The Committee voted and approved to continue temporary affiliation for the group home in Hampton and substance abuse services in both locations.

James Bentley Treatment Program requested temporary affiliation for the Haven House for Girls (a residential program for 12-17 year old females with behavioral issues, which mirrors the current program for adolescent males). The Committee voted and approved temporary affiliation for the adolescent female residential program.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS:

Commonwealth Support Systems – 28 individuals are in day support, and 5 are receiving in-home residential support. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Community Services of Virginia, Inc. – 82 consumers (31 are receiving in-home services, 18 in day support programs, and 33 are group home residents). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported, but they are still awaiting the follow-up report from APS on a previously reported serious injury.

Emerson Place, Inc. – 3 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported. A progress report of an approved behavioral plan that includes the use of a protective device must be presented to the LHRC at each quarterly meeting.

Family Redirection Institute, Inc. – 73 in-home counseling consumers (35 in Portsmouth and 38 in Newport News). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported, but they did report a break-in in their Portsmouth office. No patient records were taken, but equipment (computers, etc.) was stolen.

G.R.A.C.E., Inc. – 7 residential consumers. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

James Bentley Treatment Program – 3 residential consumers. No seclusion or restraints reported, but one complaint was reported.

Northwestern Human Services, Inc. – 25 individuals are in residential support, and 0 are receiving in-home services. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported, but they need to give a follow-up report on a previously reported allegation of abuse.

Sentara Mental Health Services – 30 inpatients. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported, but they reported 2 geriatric deaths (both of natural causes).

Sentara Senior Behavioral Health Services – 22 outpatients. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Tranquility Manor, LLC – 14 residential consumers, and 16 day support consumers (between the three facilities). No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Unique Friends, LLC – 7 consumers are in residential support, and 1 is receiving in-home services. No complaints, abuse, seclusion, or restraints reported.

Mr. Daye reminded affiliates that 1/15/07 is the deadline for submitting the required seclusion/restraint reports to the Office of Human Rights.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Committee voted to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a behavior plan submitted by Emerson Place, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the behavior plan. The Committee recommended that Emerson Place, Inc. continue with the current plan as previously proposed.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a complaint at James Bentley Treatment Program. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the complaint. The Committee had no further recommendations for James Bentley Treatment Program as this was just the follow-up to an unannounced visit by the Office of Human Rights.

The Committee voted to go back into closed session pursuant to Virginia code 2.2-3711A to review a follow-up report on a previously reported allegation of abuse at Northwestern Human Services, Inc. Upon reconvening in open session, each member of the LHRC certified that the only thing discussed in closed session was the follow-up report. The Committee recommended that Northwestern Human Services, Inc. continue to support the individuals in accordance with the state regulations.

The next LHRC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2007, 9:30 AM sharp at Family Redirection Institute, Inc., 3401 County Street, Portsmouth, VA (398-0200).

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna Stinespring, RNC
LHRC Program Support Liaison

Dr. Roderick Hawthorne
LHRC Chairman